



# Conservation Security Program

Pasture Fact Sheet

Utah, 2008

What is the Conservation Security Program (CSP)?



CSP is a unique new program that offers payments for topnotch conservation farmers and ranchers. Unlike other programs that help producers fix resource problems, CSP rewards those who already act as model conservationists. It also pays qualified producers to do further environmental enhancements, such as additional conservation treatments, evaluation, on-farm demonstrations and more.

CSP is a three-tiered program with different requirements for each tier. All CSP producers, regardless of the tier at which they participate, must ultimately address minimum treatment criteria for soil quality and water quality. Techniques to achieve these soil and water quality criteria will vary depending on your farms slope, climate, soil texture and other characteristics. Typically, sound resource management will include activities such as those shown below and will result in fertile soil with valuable organic matter that is protected from erosion. Additionally, pesticides and nutrients will be managed to help keep surface and groundwater clean to protect human and environmental health. For pasture, consider the following checklist.

Do you currently . . .

- **Have a rotational grazing plan?**
- **Manage the kind and amount of forage available?**
- **Manage grazing distribution on each pasture?**
- **Keep written records or documentation of pasture management activities?**

Producers in the selected Utah watershed may qualify for CSP if they are addressing natural resource concerns on their pastures by:

- Using a grazing plan that allows for periods of rest.
- Keeping records of livestock/grazing production.
- Managing grazing distribution by placement of watering facilities and fencing.
- Managing livestock access to rivers, streams and other sensitive areas.
- If irrigated, schedule applications based on pasture needs.
- Conduct soil tests and apply fertilizer according to university recommendations.

For more information . . .

Contact your local USDA Service Center, listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture, or your local conservation district. Information is also available on the Internet at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farnbill/2002>.